



NEWS RELEASE

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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Wireless Local Number Portability to start on November 24th

Wireless telephone subscribers receiving service from Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville will be able to change cellular telephone service providers and retain the same telephone number under a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule that goes into effect on November 24th.

Wireless local number portability (LNP) will enable cell phone subscribers to carry their telephone numbers with them if they switch cellular service providers.

TRA Chairman Debi Tate commended the FCC and wireless providers for making this feature available. "Both Congress and the FCC have envisioned this pro-consumer initiative for some time. Wireless LNP will give more control to the consumer and will promote more vigorous competition in the entire telecommunications sector."

Three Tennessee metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) are named on the FCC's list of the top 100 wireless telephone markets eligible for LNP. An MSA consists of a core county that contains a substantially large population together with several adjacent interacting counties. According to the FCC, all other parts of Tennessee are scheduled to have this capability within six months.

The FCC's LNP rule, however, will not prevent cellular telephone service providers from enforcing existing customer agreements. Before switching service providers, consumers should be aware that early termination fees, credit requirements and other provisions may still be enforced by carriers.

The FCC does, nevertheless, expect cellular telephone service providers to release a customer's telephone number to a competing wireless carrier while any contractual obligations are being settled with the customer.

Customers who wish to change wireless service providers are to contact the prospective new carrier who will initiate the porting process with the customer's current service provider. Complaints should be directed to the FCC at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

For a complete list of the areas within Tennessee that are eligible to participate in wireless local number portability, visit the TRA's web site at www.state.tn.us/tra.

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Tennessee areas eligible for Wireless Local Number Portability

Knoxville, TN Metropolitan Statistical Area

Anderson County, TN
Blount County, TN
Knox County, TN
Loudon County, TN
Union County, TN

Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metropolitan Statistical Area

Fayette County, TN
Shelby County, TN
Tipton County, TN

Nashville -Davidson--Murfreesboro, TN Metropolitan Statistical Area

Cannon County, TN
Cheatham County, TN
Davidson County, TN
Dickson County, TN
Hickman County, TN
Macon County, TN
Robertson County, TN
Rutherford County, TN
Smith County, TN
Sumner County, TN
Trousdale County, TN
Williamson County, TN
Wilson County, TN